

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., today said, "Every student, parent and citizen in Illinois should thank Reverend and State Senator James Meeks for dramatically raising the issue of adequately and fairly funding public education in Illinois. Only time will tell if the Governor's plan is both innovative and effective because the devil is always in the details. However, I am hopeful that all Illinois children will soon reap the full crop of educational blessings that the Governor is promising through the economic seeds he is planting today.

"This education plan is a public/private partnership - using a public asset to attract private funds in order to gain extra money for public education. If such a partnership is good enough for the kids, then it's good enough for their parents. Leasing state-owned land to a legal airport authority (ALNAC), so ALNAC can contract with private developers to build an airport and create thousands of new jobs, is just as valid. All we need is the Governor's signature. He can immediately unlock over \$300 million of private investment in Illinois at no risk to taxpayers. As the Governor said today, 'when you know in your heart what you're doing is right, the rewarding part of the job is you go out and you just do it'," Jackson concluded.